

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (ALBERT, CARL)

SUBJECT: CODEL ALBERT ARRIVAL IN ROMANIA

A DELEGATION OF AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN HEADED BY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CARL ALBERT LANDED THIS MORNING IN CONSTANTA, ROMANIA TO BEGIN A FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO THIS BALKAN NATION. THE GROUP OF 17 CONGRESSMEN, THE FIRST OFFICIAL DELEGATION FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS EVER TO VISIT ROMANIA, WAS MET AT MIHAI CROMALNICEANU AIRPORT BY NICOLAE GIOSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE ROMANIAN GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MR. ALBERT'S ROMANIAN COUNTERPART, VASILE VILCU, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CONSTANTA JUDET PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS. IN WELCOMING THE AMERICAN LAWMAKERS AND THEIR WIVES TO ROMANIA, MR. GIOSAN SAID "WE KNOW THAT YOUR VISIT WILL HAVE A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR STATES AND PEOPLES." SPEAKER ALBERT RESPONDED TO MR. GIOSAN'S WARM WELCOME BY SAYING THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS "CONVINCED THAT WE WILL LEARN MANY THINGS WHICH

WILL BENEFIT BOTH OUR COUNTRIES."

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION INCLUDED A LENGTHY TOUR OF SEVERAL ROMANIAN RESORT AREAS AND A FESTIVE LUNCHEON AT THE FAMOUS "WHITE HORSE INN" IN NEPTUNE, WHERE THE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BUCAR 04024 152102Z

AMERICAN GROUP WAS ENTERTAINED BY ROMANIAN POPULAR AND FOLK

SINGERS AND DANCERS.

IN A TOAST MADE DURING THE LUNCHEON, SPEAKER ALBERT ECHOED REMARKS MADE EARLIER THIS MONTH BY PRESIDENT FORD DURING HIS VISIT TO ROMANIA BY ASSERTING HIS AND THE CONGRESS'S PLEASURE THAT "ROMANIA AND THE U.S. ARE FRIENDS."

BEFORE DEPARTING FOR BUCHAREST THIS EVENING, THE CONGRESSMEN AND THEIR WIVES MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU AT HIS SEASIDE VILLA IN NEPTUNE. IN HIS WELCOMING REMARKS, PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU CALLED ATTENTION TO THE RECENT "SUCCESSFUL" VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD TO ROMANIA, AND EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE IN JULY TO GRANT ROMANIA MFN STATUS. THE ROMANIAN LEADER COMMENTED THAT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ROMANIAN-AMERICAN TRADE AGREEMENT TOGETHER WITH THE HISTORIC DOCUMENT SIGNED AT HELSINKI WOULD SURELY "OPEN NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR RELATIONS" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ROMANIA.

IN REPLYING TO THE PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS, SPEAKER ALBERT SPOKE OF HIS CONVICTION THAT ROMANIA AND THE U.S. "HAVE A LOT TO OFFER ONE ANOTHER," AND ADDED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS "WILL BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL OR THEY WON'T BE BENEFICIAL AT ALL."

DISCUSSIONS IN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S SUMMER RETREAT BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS WERE OPEN, FRANK AND FRIENDLY. SUBJECTS RAISED IN THE MEETING INCLUDED BILATERAL ECONOMIC TRADE MATTERS AS WELL AS SUCH INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AS DISARMAMENT, THE AFTERMATH OF THE HELSINKI SUMMIT, AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

AT THE MEETING'S CONCLUSION, PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT NEW WAYS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE LEGISLATURES OF THE U.S. AND ROMANIA COULD BE EXPLORED.

THE GROUP OF AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN DEPARTED THE PRESIDENTIAL VILLA AND THE ROMANIAN SEASHORE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEAUSESCU MEETING, FLYING IN THEIR AIR FORCE JET TO BUCHAREST WHERE THEY WILL OVERNIGHT. TOMORROW, THEIR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS WILL CONTINUE. THE DELEGATION WILL BE IN ROMANIA
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BUCHAR 04024 152102Z

UNTIL TUESDAY, AUGUST 19.

END ITEM.
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